

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. For use in a wireless network comprising a plurality of base stations, each of said base stations capable of communicating with a plurality of mobile stations, a security device capable of preventing an unprovisioned one of said plurality of mobile stations from accessing an Internet protocol (IP) data network through said wireless network, said security device comprising:

a first controller capable of receiving from said unprovisioned mobile station an IP data packet comprising an IP packet header and an IP packet payload and replacing said IP packet header with a replacement IP packet header comprising an IP address of a selected one of at least one provisioning server of said wireless network.

2. The security device set forth in Claim 1 wherein said first controller is disposed in at least one of said plurality of base stations.

3. The security device set forth in Claim 1 wherein said first controller is disposed in a mobile switching center of said wireless network.

1 4. The security device set forth in Claim 1 further  
2 comprising a second controller capable of determining that said  
3 unprovisioned mobile station is unprovisioned.

1 5. The security device set forth in Claim 1 wherein said  
2 second controller determines that said unprovisioned mobile station  
3 is unprovisioned if said unprovisioned mobile station is unable to  
4 authenticate to said wireless network.

1 6. The security device set forth in Claim 1 wherein said  
2 second controller determines that said unprovisioned mobile station  
3 is unprovisioned according to a predetermined telephone number  
4 associated with a service provisioning process selected by said  
unprovisioned mobile station.

1 7. The security device set forth in Claim 1 wherein said  
2 second controller determines that said unprovisioned mobile station  
3 is unprovisioned according to data retrieved from a home location  
4 register associated with said wireless network.

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1 8. The security device set forth in Claim 1 wherein said  
2 first controller selects said least one provisioning server by  
3 selecting said IP address in said replacement IP packet header  
4 according to a load spreading algorithm.

1 9. A wireless network comprising:  
2 a plurality of base stations, each of said base stations  
3 capable of communicating with a plurality of mobile stations;  
4 at least one provisioning server; and  
5 a security device capable of preventing an unprovisioned  
6 one of said plurality of mobile stations from accessing an Internet  
7 protocol (IP) data network through said wireless network, said  
8 security device comprising:

9 a first controller capable of receiving from said  
10 unprovisioned mobile station an IP data packet comprising  
11 an IP packet header and an IP packet payload and  
12 replacing said IP packet header with a replacement IP  
13 packet header comprising an IP address of a selected one  
14 of said at least one provisioning server.

15 10. The wireless network set forth in Claim 9 wherein said  
16 first controller is disposed in at least one of said plurality of  
17 base stations.

1 11. The wireless network set forth in Claim 9 wherein said  
2 first controller is disposed in a mobile switching center of said  
3 wireless network.

03  
2 12. The wireless network set forth in Claim 9 further  
3 comprising a second controller capable of determining that said  
unprovisioned mobile station is unprovisioned.

13. The wireless network set forth in Claim 9 wherein said  
second controller determines that said unprovisioned mobile station  
is unprovisioned if said unprovisioned mobile station is unable to  
authenticate to said wireless network.

14. The wireless network set forth in Claim 9 wherein said  
second controller determines that said unprovisioned mobile station  
is unprovisioned according to a predetermined telephone number  
associated with a service provisioning process selected by said  
unprovisioned mobile station.

1 15. The wireless network set forth in Claim 9 wherein said  
 2 second controller determines that said unprovisioned mobile station  
 3 is unprovisioned according to data retrieved from a home location  
 4 register associated with said wireless network.

1 16. The wireless network set forth in Claim 9 wherein said  
 2 first controller selects said least one provisioning server by  
 3 selecting said IP address in said replacement IP packet header  
 4 according to a load spreading algorithm.

1 17. For use in a wireless network comprising a plurality of  
2 base stations, each of the base stations capable of communicating  
3 with a plurality of mobile stations, a method of preventing an  
4 unprovisioned one of the plurality of mobile stations from  
5 accessing an Internet protocol (IP) data network through the  
6 wireless network, the method comprising the steps of:

7 receiving from the unprovisioned mobile station an IP  
8 data packet comprising an IP packet header and an IP packet  
9 payload;

10 determining that the unprovisioned mobile station is  
11 unprovisioned; and

12 replacing the IP packet header with a replacement IP  
13 packet header comprising an IP address of a selected one of at  
14 least one provisioning server of the wireless network.

15 18. The method set forth in Claim 17 wherein the step of  
16 determining comprises the step of determining that the  
17 unprovisioned mobile station is unable to authenticate to the  
18 wireless network.

1 19. The method set forth in Claim 17 wherein the step of  
2 determining comprises the step of determining that the  
3 unprovisioned mobile station selected a predetermined telephone  
4 number associated with a service provisioning process.

1 20. The method set forth in Claim 17 wherein the step of  
2 determining that the unprovisioned mobile station is unprovisioned  
3 comprises the step of examining data retrieved from a home location  
4 register associated with the wireless network.